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Overwhelming Margin

UH Students Vote 'No' on NSA Link

Students at the University of Houston have overwhelmingly rejected membership in the spy-tinged National Student Association in the largest voter turnout in the school's history.

In a referendum Wednesday and Thursday, 66 per cent of the 5,260 student voters said "no" to reaffiliation with the controversial student government organization.

THE NSA came under fire in February, 1967, when it was disclosed it had been receiving funds from the Central Intelligence Agency.

The University's Student Senate voted to join NSA in Dec, 1966.

The University of Houston was the largest member school in the Greater Southwest Region, which includes Rice University and the University of Saint Thomas.

Bitter controversy over affiliation broke out after the NSA's 20th Congress met this summer and endorsed black power "by any means necessary," "more equitable drug laws," and a draft resolution calling for the abolition of conscription and the Selective Service system.

IDENTICAL RESOLUtions were presented in a referendum last week to University of Houston students, who turned thumbs down on all three.

The University of Houston sent seven delegates, seven alternates and four observers to the summer NSA congress.

Three members of the national NSA staff visited the campus last week to discuss the association with students and reported that three colleges have quit NSA since the August congress.

Al Handel, director of Student Services Division for NSA, said the University of Michigan quit NSA "because we were too conservative for them."

JIM EVANS, University of Houston Student Association president who actively campaigned for reaffiliation with NSA, said he was pleased with the larger voter turnout and he believes the turnout indicates a new awareness and concern at the university.

"I will not be too surprised," he said, "to see the university reaffiliate with the National Student Association by a popular vote in years to come."